

Appl. No. 10/708,286
Docket No. 129719/GET-0039

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A device for controlling a fluid flow, the device comprising:
 - at least two fluid flow drivers;
 - a plenum disposed to receive a fluid flow from the at least two drivers, the plenum having a first cross-sectional area proximate the at least two drivers and a second cross-sectional area at a distance from the at least two drivers, the second cross-sectional area being an exit for the fluid flow; and
 - a baffle disposed within the plenum and having a first edge restrained proximate the first cross-sectional area and a second opposing edge freely disposed proximate the second cross-sectional area;

wherein the baffle has a surface area responsive to the fluid flow within the plenum to reduce a backflow if one of the at least two drivers is operational and another is non-operational; and

wherein the baffle flexes in response to an air flow from each of the at least two drivers and in response to a pressure differential across the baffle such that the plenum shape changes to optimize the flow regardless of whether one of the at least two drivers is non-operational.
2. (original) The device of Claim 1, wherein the baffle further comprises unrestrained side edges disposed between the first and second edges.

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3. (original) The device of Claim 1, wherein the first edge of the baffle is affixed proximate a line between two of the at least two drivers and the second opposing edge is freely disposed proximate the center of the second cross-sectional area.

4. (original) The device of Claim 3, wherein the first edge of the baffle is affixed proximate the center of the first cross-sectional area.

5. (canceled)

6. (currently amended) The device of Claim [[5]] 1, wherein in response to the baffle ~~flexing flexes in response to a pressure differential across the baffle such that~~ the plenum shape is optimized regardless of whether one of the at least two drivers is non-operational.

7. (original) The device of Claim 1, wherein in response to one of the at least two drivers being operational and another being non-operational, the baffle moves to close off a part of the plenum corresponding to the non-operational driver.

8. (original) The device of Claim 1, wherein the at least two drivers comprises two fans, and the fluid flow comprises air.

9. (original) The device of Claim 8, wherein the two fans are disposed in a parallel fluid flow arrangement.

10. (original) The device of Claim 9, wherein the two fans are disposed in a same plane.

11. (original) The device of Claim 1, further comprising a tachometer for and in signal communication with each of the at least two drivers;

wherein if one of the at least two drivers is operational and another is non-operational the baffle substantially reduces the backflow toward the non-operational driver such that the associated tachometer registers a non-operational driver.

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12. (original) The device of Claim 1, wherein the baffle is disposed in such a way as to divide the plenum in half in response to the at least two drivers and the baffle being at rest.

13. (original) A heat transfer apparatus, comprising:

a heat exchanger; and

a device for providing a fluid flow, the device comprising:

at least two fluid flow drivers;

a plenum disposed to receive a fluid flow from the at least two drivers, the plenum having a first cross-sectional area proximate the at least two drivers and a second cross-section area at a distance from the at least two drivers, the second cross-sectional area being an exit for the fluid flow; and

a baffle disposed within the plenum and having a first edge restrained proximate the first cross-sectional area and a second opposing edge freely disposed proximate the second cross-sectional area;

wherein the baffle has a surface area responsive to the fluid flow within the plenum to reduce a backflow if one of the at least two drivers is operational and another is non-operational;

wherein the heat exchanger is disposed proximate the exit of the device and in fluid communication with the fluid flow from the device.

14. (original) The apparatus of Claim 13, wherein:

the at least two drivers comprises two fans disposed in a parallel fluid flow arrangement; and

the fluid comprises air.

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15. (original) The apparatus of Claim 13, wherein:

the baffle is flexible;

the baffle flexes in response to a pressure differential across the baffle such that the plenum shape is optimized regardless of whether one of the at least two drivers is non-operational; and

in response to one of the at least two drivers being operational and another being non-operational, the baffle moves to close off a part of the plenum corresponding to the non-operational driver.

16. (original) The apparatus of Claim 13, further comprising a tachometer for and in signal communication with each of the at least two drivers;

wherein if one of the at least two drivers is operational and another is non-operational the baffle substantially reduces the backflow toward the non-operational driver such that the associated tachometer registers a non-operational driver.

17. (currently amended) A device for controlling an air flow, the device comprising:

two fans disposed in a parallel air flow arrangement;

a plenum disposed to receive an air flow from the two fans, the plenum having a first cross-sectional area proximate the two fans and a second cross-section area at a distance from the two fans, the second cross-sectional area being an exit for the air flow; and

a baffle disposed within the plenum and flexibly responsive to an air flow from each of the two fans, the baffle and having a first edge restrained proximate the first cross-sectional area and a second opposing edge freely disposed proximate the second cross-sectional area;

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wherein the baffle flexes in response to a pressure differential across the baffle to reduce a backflow within the plenum if one of the two fans is operational and another is non-operational.

18. (original) The device of Claim 17, further comprising a tachometer for and in signal communication with each of the two fans;

wherein if one of the two fans is operational and another is non-operational the baffle substantially reduces the backflow toward the non-operational fan such that the associated tachometer registers a non-operational fan.

19. (new) The apparatus of Claim 13 for cooling a heat generating unit, wherein:

the second cross-sectional area is smaller than the first cross-sectional area; and
the heat exchanger is in thermal communication with the heat generating unit.

20. (new) The apparatus of Claim 13, wherein:

the baffle flexes in response to a pressure differential across the baffle such that the plenum shape changes to optimize the flow regardless of whether one of the at least two drivers is non-operational.